



WINDHAM REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Chaplin Columbia Coventry Hampton Lebanon Mansfield Scotland Willington Windham

Chairman DeFronzo
Chairman Guerrero
Members of the Transportation Committee

March 11, 2009

**RE: SB 1093 - AN ACT PROVIDING FUNDS FOR MUNICIPAL MATCHING GRANTS
FOR DEMAND-RESPONSIVE TRANSPORTATION FOR ELDERLY PERSONS AND
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Dear Chairman DeFronzo and Chairman Guerrero, and members of the Transportation Committee,

The Windham Region Council of Governments (WINCOG) is writing in support of legislation regarding **Demand Responsive Transportation for the Elderly** as noted in SB 1093.

The continuation of funding for this matching municipal grant program is essential to the elderly and disabled population of the State of Connecticut. It is even more important here in Eastern Connecticut as the rural nature of our towns makes it even more difficult for this population to move around.

Windham Region Transit District (WRTD) submits a regional application for these funds on behalf of eight towns in the WINCOG area. These grant funds are used for additional hours of transportation services, mileage reimbursement to volunteer drivers for use of their private vehicles and increased hours of service provided by town-owned vans. In FY09, this program provided \$127,082 to our region, with our municipalities providing matching funds of \$113,700.

Thank you for your consideration in moving this bill forward to provide the much needed funding it provides to our municipalities.

Sincerely,

Mark N. Paquette
Executive Director, WINCOG

cc: WINCOG Board of Directors